

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Under "*Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiment*," paragraph 1, please make the following amendment:

An illustrative embodiment of apparatus useful in the present invention will be described herein with reference to the ~~accompany~~ accompanying drawings. The described apparatus is only illustrative of a presently preferred form of useful apparatus and is not meant to limit or restrict the scope of the invention.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiment*," paragraph 4, please make the following amendment:

Generally, in order for a software program to find particles in an image, the user must define maximum and minimum grayscale and size parameters. The software program should be capable of analyzing the image for "particles" or "blobs" based on the user-defined grayscale values and size parameters and preferably can report on individual particles or do statistical analysis on all particles found in an image. The software program should also have the capability of altering an image by methods such as filtering "~~noise~~", "noise," adjusting contrast and brightness ~~levels or~~ levels or performing special algorithms on the pixels in the image. All computer hardware and software functions can be recorded and saved as a script or macro. The user would then need only have to capture the image, run a recorded ~~macro and~~ macro, and he would then be presented with the results that were pre-selected to be reported.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiment*," paragraph 12, please make the following amendment:

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Fig. 3 illustrates an embodiment of a sample tray 36, 36. The sample tray 36 includes a clear, ~~light transmitting~~ light-transmitting bottom. The bottom can be made out of, for example, clear glass or plastic. Although not necessary, the side walls may also be made of clear, ~~light transmitting~~ light-transmitting material.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiment*," paragraph 14, please make the following amendment:

Fig. 4A and Fig. 4B provides two views of an optional light box cover 38 which includes a sample tray guide frame 40. The light box cover 38 is used to protect the light box 12 and ~~keep~~ keeps the light box 12 from getting dirty or soiled with spilled food and the like. The light box cover 38 is sized and shaped to fit over the light box 12 and within the cabinet 28. The light box cover 38 will also include (like the cabinet 28) openings to permit access to controls and to accommodate electrical cords. In the preferred embodiment and as best shown in Fig. 4B, an opening is provided in the rear of the light box cover 38 to correspond to the opening 34 in the cabinet 28 because it is believed to be less likely that food product will be spilled on the rear.

Under "*Detailed Description of the Illustrative Embodiment*," paragraph 20, please make the following amendment:

A sample consisting of fruit particles or fruit particles in a matrix is spread evenly inside the sample tray 36 with a spatula or, if the sample is not very viscous, by gently shaking the tray with a circular motion. The sample size should be chosen so that it is possible to adjust the lights so that the fruit particles in the sample appear as darker areas against a lighter background. In order to fairly and accurately compare one sample to other samples and controls or standards, for each type of food product, a uniform sample size should be ~~used and used~~, and the sample should be measured in, at least~~[,]~~ approximately~~[,]~~ the same conditions, such as the same step in the manufacturing process~~[,]~~ and the same temperature and concentration.